(a) whether Government have ordered the Indian Army to retreat from the Siachen Glacier with a view to demilitarizing Siachen;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether this demilitarization is a token of India's confidence building measure towards Pakistan and China;

(d) if so, the details therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that Indian Army is of the view that leaving Siachen Glacier undefended amounts to foregoing a strategic advantage from a military point of view; and

(f) if so, the Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (f) There is no decision taken to pull out tropps from Siachen Glacier.

Declaration of Languages as Classical

2308. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to declare Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam as classical languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Representations have been received to declare Telugu and Kannada as Classical Languages. However, no such demand has been received in respect of Malayalam language. Representations, so received, are referred to the Committee of Linguistic Experts constituted by the Ministry of Culture.

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†2309. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.